

East Oregonian



W. J. BRYAN ON THE ELECTION.

The 5,000,000 voters who cast their ballots for W. J. Bryan for president in 1896 and 1900, and a large proportion of whom thought him to be the only logical candidate in 1904, have listened intently for his judgment on the recent overwhelming democratic defeat.

The Commoner of November 11, contains his review of the past, and his rallying call for the future. Significant as it is to be in the future political program of democracy, the East Oregonian takes pleasure in reproducing the editorial entire, as follows:

The democratic party has met with an overwhelming defeat in the national election. As yet the returns are not sufficiently complete to permit analysis, and it is impossible to say whether the result is due to an actual increase in the number of republican votes or to a falling off in the democratic vote. This phase of the subject will be dealt with next week when the returns are all in. The questions for consideration at this time are, what lesson does the election teach? and, what of the future?

The defeat of Judge Parker should not be considered a personal one. He did as well as he could under the circumstances; he was the victim of unfavorable conditions and of a mistaken party policy. He grew in popularity as the campaign progressed, and expressed himself more and more strongly upon the trust question but could not overcome the heavy odds against him.

The so-called conservative democrats charged the defeats of 1896 and 1900 to the party's position on the money question and insisted that a victory could be won by dropping the coinage question entirely. The convention accepted this theory, and the platform made no reference to the money question, but Judge Parker felt that it was his duty to announce his personal adherence to the gold standard. His gold telegram, as it was called, while embarrassing to the democrats of the West and South, was applauded by the Eastern press.

He had the cordial endorsement of Mr. Cleveland, who certified that the party had returned to "safety and sanity"; he had the support of the democratic press which bolted in 1896, and he also had the aid of nearly all of those who were prominent in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900, and yet his defeat is apparently greater than the party suffered in either of those years.

It is unquestionable, also, that Judge Parker's defeat was not local, but general—the returns from the Eastern states being as disappointing as the returns from the West. The reorganizers were in complete control of the party; they planned the campaign and carried it on according to their own views, and the verdict against their plan is a unanimous one.

Surely, silver cannot be blamed for this defeat, for the campaign was run on a gold basis; neither can the defeat be charged to emphatic condemnation of the trusts, for the trusts were not assailed as vigorously this year as they were four years ago.

It is evident that the campaign did not turn upon the question of imperialism, and it is not fair to consider the result as a personal victory for the president, although his administration was the subject of criticism.

THE RESULT WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ATTEMPTED TO BE CONSERVATIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF CONDITIONS WHICH DEMAND RADICAL REMEDIES. IT SOUNDED A PARTIAL RETREAT, WHEN IT SHOULD HAVE ORDERED A CHARGE ALL ALONG THE LINE.

In 1896 the line was drawn, for the first time during the present generation, between plutocracy and democracy, and the party's stand on the side of democracy alienated a large number of plutocratic democrats who, in the nature of things, can not be expected to return, and it drew to itself a large number of earnest advocates of reform whose attachment to these reforms is much stronger than attachment to any party name.

The republican party occupied the conservative position. That is, it defends those who, having secured unfair advantages through class legislation, insist that they shall not be disturbed no matter how oppressive their exactions may become. The democratic party can not hope to compete successfully with the republican party for this support. To win the support of the plutocratic element of the country the party would have to become more plutocratic than the republican party and it could and do this without losing several times as many voters as that course would win.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS NOTHING TO GAIN BY CATERING TO ORGANIZED AND PREDATORY WEALTH. IT MUST NOT ONLY DO WITHOUT SUCH SUPPORT, BUT IT CAN STRENGTHEN ITSELF BY INVITING THE OPEN AND EMPHATIC OPPOSITION OF THESE ELEMENTS.

The campaign just closed shows that it is as inexpedient from the standpoint of policy as it is wrong from the standpoint of principle to attempt any conciliation of the industrial and financial despots who are gradually getting control of all the avenues of wealth.

The democratic party, if it hopes to win success, must take the side of the plain, common people. The Commoner has for two years pointed out the futility of any attempt to compromise with wrong or to patch up a peace with the great corporations which are now exploiting the public, but the Southern democrats were so alarmed by the race issue that they listened, rather reluctantly, to it and to their credit, to the promises of success held out by those who had contributed to the defeat of the party in two preceding campaigns.

The experiment has been a costly one, and it is not likely to be repeated during the present generation. The Eastern democrats were also deceived. They were led to believe that the magnates and monopolists who coerced the voters in 1896 and supplied an enormous campaign fund in both 1896 and 1900, would help the democratic party if our party would only be less radical. The corporation press aided in this deception, and even the republican papers professed an unselfish desire to help build up the democratic party.

The election has opened the eyes of hundreds of thousands of honest and well-meaning democrats who a few months ago favored the reorganization of the party. These men now see that they must either go into the republican party or join with the democrats of the West and South in making the democratic party a positive, aggressive and progressive reform organization. There is no middle ground.

Mr. Bryan did what he could to prevent the reorganization of the democratic party; when he failed in this he did what he could to aid Parker and Davis in order to secure such reforms—and there were some vital ones—promised by their election. Now that the campaign is over he will both through the Commoner and by personal effort assist those who desire to put the democratic party once more upon a fighting basis; he will assist in organizing for the campaign of 1908. It does not matter so much who the nominee may be.

During the next three years circumstances may bring into the arena some man especially fitted to carry the standard. It will be time enough to discuss a candidate when we are near enough to the campaign to measure the relative availability of those worthy to be considered, but we ought to begin now to lay our plans for the next national campaign and to form the line of battle.

The party must continue to protest against a large army and against a large navy, and to stand for the independence of the Philippines, for imperialism adds the menace of militarism to the corrupting influence of commercialism, and yet experience shows that however righteous the party's position on this subject, the issue does not arouse the people as they are aroused by a question which touches them immediately and individually.

The injustice done to the Filipinos is not resented as it should be or as we resent a wrong to ourselves and the costliness of imperialism is hidden by the statistics and by our indirect system of taxation. While the party must maintain its position on this subject, it can not present this as the only issue.

The party must also maintain its position on the tariff question. No answer has been made to the democratic indictment against the high tariff, and yet, here too, the burden of the tariff system is concealed by the method in which the tax is collected. It can not be made the sole issue of a campaign.

The party must renew its demand for an income tax, to be secured through a constitutional amendment, in order that wealth may be made to pay its share of the expenses of the government. Today we are collecting practically all of our federal revenue from taxes upon consumption, and these bear heaviest upon the poor and light upon the rich.

The party must maintain its position in favor of bimetalism. It can not surrender its demand for the use of both gold and silver as the standard money of the country, but the question must remain in abeyance until conditions so change as to bring the public again face to face with falling prices and a rising dollar. This, therefore, can not be made the controlling issue of the contest upon which we are entering.

The trust question presents the most acute phase of the contest between democracy and plutocracy, so far as economic issues are concerned. The president virtually admits that the trusts contributed to his campaign fund, but he denies that they received any promises of aid or immunity.

No well-informed person doubts that the large corporations have furnished the republican campaign fund during the campaigns of 1896 and 1900 and 1904, and no one can answer the logic of Judge Parker's

arraignment of trust contributions. The trusts are run on business principles. They do not subscribe millions of dollars to campaigns unless they are paying for favors already granted or purchasing favors for future delivery.

The weakness of Judge Parker's position was that the charge was made at the close of the campaign when it was neutralized by a counter charge. The trusts can not be fought successfully by any party that depends upon trust funds to win the election.

The democratic party must make its attack upon the trusts so vehemently that no one will suspect aid from them. It will be to its advantage if it will begin the next campaign with an announcement that no trust contributions will be accepted and then prove its sincerity by giving the public access to its contribution list. In public enterprises the names of contributors are generally made public in order to denote the character and purpose of the work.

President Roosevelt has four years in which to make good his declaration that no obligations were incurred by the acceptance of trust funds. He will disappoint either the contributors or the voters. If he disappoints the contributors, the trust question may be put in the process of settlement. If he disappoints the people, they will have a chance to settle with his party four years hence. "Death to every private monopoly" must be the slogan of the party in this question; any other position is a surrender. The platforms of 1900 and 1904 declare that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable, and this declaration presents the issue upon the trust question.

The party must continue its defense of the interests of the wage-earners; it must protect them from the encroachments of capital. The fact that the laboring men have not always shown their appreciation of the party's position ought not to deter the party from doing its duty in regard to them.

The labor question is not one that concerns employers and employees alone; it concerns the entire community, and the people at large have an interest in the just settlement of labor controversies; for that reason they must insist upon remedial legislation in regard to hours and arbitration, and they must so limit the authority of the courts in contempt cases as to overthrow what is known as government by injunction.

The party must continue its opposition to national banks of issue and must insist upon divorcing the treasury department from Wall street. The party must continue its fight for the popular election of senators and for direct legislation wherever the principle can be applied. It must not only maintain its position on old issues, but it must advance to the consideration of new questions as they arise.

It takes time to direct attention to an evil and still more time to consolidate sentiment in favor of a remedy, and Mr. Bryan is not sanguine enough to believe that all the reforms that he favors will at once be endorsed by any party platform. BUT THE COMMONER WILL PROCEED TO POINT OUT THE REFORMS WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE NEEDED. AMONG THESE MAY BE MENTIONED THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM, STATE OWNERSHIP OF RAILROADS, THE ELECTION OF FEDERAL JUDGES FOR FIXED TERMS, AND THE ELECTION OF POSTMASTERS BY THE PEOPLE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

Instead of having the government controlled by corporations through officers chosen by the corporations, we must have a government of the people, by the people and for the people—a government administered according to the Jeffersonian maxim of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Hope and duty point the way. To doubt the success of our cause is to doubt the triumph of the right, for ours is and must be the cause of the masses. "With malice toward none and charity for all," let us begin the campaign of 1908; let us appeal to the moral sentiment of the country and arraign the policies of the republican party before the bar of the public conscience.

CHINAMAN IN CIVIL WAR.

John C. Peau, a Chinese resident of Astoria, fought through the Civil war in the Union army. It is believed that he is the only Chinese who regularly enlisted and remained in service during the fighting. Peau is now 64 years of age. His knowledge of events of the war is as thorough as that of the ordinary Grand Army man, and although his memory is rather poor, his recital is accurate, says the Astorian.

Peau was born in Canton, China, and came to America at the age of 13. He first visited San Francisco, but later went to New York, where he attended school. He adopted American customs and avoided the Chinese colony.

During a vacation he visited Fort Sumter and chanced to be there when the Confederates made the initial assault of the war of the rebellion. The incident had the effect of making Peau pro-union, and when President Lincoln issued the first call for 75,000 volunteers Peau responded and became a Union soldier.

The company with which Peau enlisted took part in the first great battle of the war—Bull Run. Peau personally knew Colonel Baker of Oregon, who fell at Bull's Bluff, and also numbered among his acquaintances Gen. U. S. Grant, with whose army he was connected at the time of Lee's surrender. After Bull Run Peau re-enlisted with an Ohio company and served from 1862 to 1865. He was only slightly wounded, although he took part in several important engagements.

In 1865 Peau came West and visited Astoria, where there were but few white inhabitants. He also went to Portland and thence to Lewiston, Idaho, where he engaged in the mercantile business for 10 years.

He passed through Spokane en route to the Kootenai country when there was but one house at the Eastern Washington metropolis. He has made several trips across the continent and numbers among his personal friends many prominent New England people. He is the permanent guest of Leong Yip, a wealthy merchant of Astoria.

NATURE HELPS THE FAIR.

Entirely outside of the artificial attractions which will distinguish the Lewis and Clark fair next year will be the magnificent and inspiring natural scenery which abounds in every direction, and, literally, "as far as the eye can see."

"His of itself, even if the Eastern visitors should never enter the exposition grounds, would repay him for the effort of the trip to Oregon. It is but the fact to remark that no exposition has ever been held in the United States, and, perhaps, in any other country, whose surroundings combined such an array of nature's lavish handiwork.—Salem Statesman.

UTAH AND THE SULUS.

Before the hullabaloo over the Smoot case has entirely subsided and interest in the subject of polygamy died out it would be interesting to know why so much has been made of the polygamy in Utah and so little of the polygamy in the Sulus.

The state government of Utah may be to blame if the laws are not enforced against polygamy in that state. The national government perhaps cannot interfere.

But in the Sulus the national government of the United States has direct jurisdiction. Not even the constitution operates there to restrain the national government from exercising to the full its moral influence.

The whole people of this country may blush for the Mormon govern-

ment of Utah because of the polygamy in that state, but because of the polygamy in Sulu the whole people of this country must blush for themselves.

Before we lose interest in the eye of Utah let us perceive the beam in the eye of the United States.

While the august senate is considering what it can do and ought to do, in the case of Sulu.—Spokane Press.

Four precincts in Union county—Imbler, Alsea, Summerville and Lower Cove—went "dry" at the recent election. Summerville was once the strongest saloon precinct in the county.

Painless, Natural Childbirth.

Baby's coming into the world should be preceded by a certain preparation on the part of every woman who expects to become a mother. Elsewhere it is a duty to her unborn babe, and by herself, her duty to her unborn babe is to use every means within her power to aid his entrance into the world. Baby cannot help himself in this matter, and neither must. He has a hard enough time after his arrival, so let us make his coming easy. His health in after life depends greatly upon the manner of his coming. Would you have your child a cripple, or would you have him a tower of strength? Strong men are but grown-up children. A famous surgeon in Vienna is devoting his life to the cure of little helpless cripples, deformed by birth; do not allow your child to become a cripple.

Mother's Friend

Is a liniment which will forestall any possibility of accident at birth; that is, it relaxes all the abdominal muscles and tissues, and enables the baby to come into the world, it relaxes the mother's parts, and so assists nature that when baby comes in, starts out in life with a constitution well able to fight life's battles, and delight of every true mother's heart.

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COMING BROTHERHOOD.

"Roll on, oh, slow-wheeled years,
And bring about the day
When men shall gather wealth to give away.
And spring to help when tempted nature fails,
As when a builder drops from city walls.
When to be good alone men shall be bold,
And seek out suffering as men seek for gold;
When Christian women shall not wipe their feet
Upon their fallen sisters in the street,
And cynicism shall be a crime unknown,
And each shall make his neighbor's wrong his own!"

"Begone, oh hate and war, begone!
Roll on this way, oh Golden Age, roll on!
When men and angels face to face shall talk!
And earth and heaven arm in arm shall walk;
When Love shall reign,
And over sea and shore
The peace of God shall rest forevermore."
—A. P. Miller, in Light of Truth.

LET THE OLD CAT DIE.

"Election is over.
The returns are all in.
The majorities of the winners are known and the bets on the losers are paid—or should be.
So, what's the use of perpetuating the agony by explaining defeats and gloating over victories?
Just let the old cat die, and let's get back to our same ways of living, the victorious rejoicing in the successes of their cause, the beaten comforted by the hope that both state and nation are in the hands of good and wise men.—Seattle Star.

Colorado's receipts during the six months ending September 30, from the sale of state lands, was \$111,748.

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